

[27 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

The matter was accordingly taken up with the Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage, Deptt. of Agriculture who have since resumed the system of issuing Plant Quarantine Certificate for tea. There is, therefore, no particular problem on this front at present.

Withdrawal of tariff concessions by US

567. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 9th February, 2001 captioned "Soda ash war: Bush signals hardline on Indo-US Trade";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating whether Government have officially responded to a US threat to withdraw tariff concessions of \$ 2.8 billion worth of Indian exports;

(c) if so, what are the seven key categories of Indian exports on which US Trade Representative has stated to withdraw tariff benefit; and

(d) what remedial steps Government propose to take to solve Indo-US trade problems?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed. (See below)

(d) The Indo-US trade problems are duly taken up with the concerned US authorities with a view to their early resolutions to mutual satisfaction.

Statement

*Categories of Indian Export on which tariff concessions has been
with drawn by US*

USTR through Federal Register Notice dated 19.1.2001 has invited public comments on modification of duty free treatment for certain products imported from India (303 product lines at the 8 digit level).

Embassy of India in Washington has filed Government's submission on.9.2.2001 and representation have also been made by US and Indian companies and organizations. The major seven key categories of these products are mentioned as below:

s. No	HTS No.	Description of the Product
1	2008	Fruit, Nuts etc. prepared^reserved nesoi
2	2511	Natural Barium Sulphate or Barium Carbonate
3	3907 3917 3926	Polyethers, Epoxides, Polyesters, Primary Forms Tubes, Pipes, Hoses their fittings of Plastic Articles of Plastic
4	4104 4203	Bovine or Equine Leather Articles of Apparel and Accessories, Leather & Comp. Leather
5	7113	Articles of Jewellery and Parts of Precious Metals or Clad
6	7307 7308 7318 7320 7323 7325 7326 7606 7609 7615 7616	Tube or Pipe Fittings of Iron or Steel Structures & Parts thereof of Iron or Steel Screws, Bolts, Nuts, Washers etc. of Iron or Sieel Springs & Leaves for Springs, Iron or Steel Household Articles & Parts or Iron or Steel or Wool of Iron or Steel Cast Articles of Iron & Steel Articles .of Iron & Steel Aluminium Plates, Sheets & Strips over 2 MM Thick Aluminium Tube or Pipe Fittings Household Article etc. of Aluminium Articles of Aluminium

s. No.	HTS No.	Description of the Product
7	8205 8483 8708	Handtools, Blow Torches, Anvils etc. Transmission Shafts, Bearings, Gears etc-fcarts Parts & Accessory for Motor Vehicles

Export of Agricultural Products

568. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken steps to encourage the export of agricultural products;

(b) if so since when; and

(c) how far the export of agricultural products have increased during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Policy of exports of agricultural products forms an integral part of the Export Import Policy of the country. The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process, and accordingly, policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable.